

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 23-25 were previously pending in the application, of which claims 7-9 have been allowed, claims 1, 2, and 4-6 have been canceled, and claims 23-25 have been amended. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-9 have been allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,900,135 to Somekh et al. (hereinafter “Somekh”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,329,826 to Shinada et al. (hereinafter “Shinada”). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somekh in view of Shinada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,410,927 to Pike, hereinafter referred to as “Pike”. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somekh in view of Shinada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,512,227 to Iwabuchi et al., hereinafter referred to as “Iwabuchi”. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somekh in view of Shinada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,841,008 to Branco et al., hereinafter referred to as “Branco”. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somekh in view of Shinada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,355,516 to Kim et al., hereinafter referred to as “Kim”. Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somekh in view of Shinada and Pike and further in view of Iwabuchi. Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somekh in view of Shinada and Pike and further in view of Branco. Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Somekh in view of Shinada and Pike and further in view of Kim.

In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, and 4-6 and have amended claims 23-25 to depend from independent claim 7, which has been allowed. Applicants therefore request that the subject rejection of claims 23-25 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 7-9 have been allowed. Claims 23-25 depend from and further limit independent claim 7 and are therefore also deemed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the pending rejections and issue a formal notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

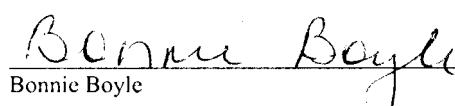

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